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The Commission of Fine Arts
6 May 1954

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C., May 6, 1954

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1954, was held in its Office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, May 6, 1954. The following members were present:

Mr. Finley, Chairman
Mr. Neild,
Dr. Hudnut,
Mr. Peets,
Mr. de Weldon,

also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer. Also Linton R. Wilson, Secretary designate.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on March 11, and on April 8, 1954, were approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECRETARY: In accordance with authority granted by the United States Civil Service Commission, and with the approval of all the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, Chairman Finley reported that he had appointed Linton R. Wilson as Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts, effective June 25, 1954. (Exhibit A).

Mr. Caemmerer will terminate his services as Secretary of the Commission on June 24, 1954.

3. LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF RETIRING SECRETARY: Chairman Finley read a letter that he had received advising that the Washington Board of Trade will give a luncheon in honor of Mr. Caemmerer on May 24, 1954, and that all the

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Held in Washington, D. C., on May 1, 1934.

The eighth meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Civil Service Union, Inc., was held in the office of the Executive Director on Thursday, May 1, 1934. The following persons were present:

- Mr. Pinney, Chairman
- Mr. Kelly
- Mr. Hubbard
- Mr. Moore
- Mr. De Haven

Also present by invitation were:

Administrative Director, also present by invitation.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Civil Service Union, Inc., held on April 1, 1934, were approved.

2. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: In accordance with the resolution of the Board of Directors of the National Civil Service Union, Inc., passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Civil Service Union, Inc., held on April 1, 1934, the Secretary reported that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934, and that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934.

3. REPORT OF THE TREASURER: The Treasurer reported that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934, and that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934.

4. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors of the National Civil Service Union, Inc., reported that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934, and that the National Civil Service Union, Inc., had received from the National Civil Service Union, Inc., a letter of introduction to the National Civil Service Union, Inc., dated May 1, 1934.

members of the Commission have been invited to attend. The Commission expressed their appreciation of this honor (Exhibit B).

4. PARKS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The Commission were in conference with the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Conrad L. Wirth, concerning conditions in several of the parks of the District of Columbia.

(a) Meridian Hill Park: The Commission received a Memorandum from Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Architect of Meridian Hill Park (Exhibit C) itemizing conditions in the Park; later in the day the Commission visited the Park. The Commission concurred in the following recommendations, as submitted by the Architect:

1. Improving appearance of the hemlock hedge along sidewalk of the Upper Garden;
2. Protecting the statue, "Serenity," from further vandalism;
3. Repairing the sidewalks throughout the Park;
4. Repairing the benches throughout the Park--sinkage caused by settling;
5. Repairing the Grand Plaza or Terrace (the question of removing the Jeanne d'Arc statue was considered, but it was thought the large trees in the locality of the Grand Terrace does not now seem to make removal of the statue necessary;
6. Question of planting trees along the Mall of the Upper Garden, inside the sidewalk, would result in too much shade.
7. Cascade needs repairs and improved planting;
8. Location of proposed Carillon, suggested by Mr. Peaslee, was noted, at east side of Lower Garden near Belmont Street;
9. Statue of Dante--its surroundings could be improved;
10. Repair work should be done at once on west side of the Park wall of Lower Garden, where balusters are disintegrating.

members of the Commission have been invited to attend. The Commission will
express their appreciation of this action (Article 1).

4. WORKS OF THE COMMISSION OF COUNCIL: The Commission will be in contact
with the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the
Interior, Bureau of Land Management, in regard to the plans of
the District of Columbia.

(a) Marble Hill Park: The Commission received a letter from
Mr. Horace W. Pease, Architect of Marble Hill Park (Article 1) and the
the conditions in the park; later in the day the Commission visited the
park. The Commission concurred in the following recommendations, as
submitted by the Architect:

1. Improving appearance of the landscape design along the
of the Upper Garden;
2. Protecting the statue, "Democracy," from further vandalism;
3. Replacing the sidewalk throughout the park;
4. Replacing the benches throughout the park with
by setting;
5. Replacing the (wood) fence on terrace (the location of
the fence is shown on the map) with a new fence, and
was thought the fence was in the vicinity of the
terrace does not now seem to be necessary;
6. Location of planting trees along the wall of the Upper
Garden, inside the sidewalk, would result in better
shade;
7. Terrace needs repairs and improved lighting;
8. Location of proposed building, suggested by Mr. Pease,
was noted, at east side of Lower Garden, and
desired;
9. Status of the building—its construction could be improved;
10. Repair work should be done at once at east side of the
park wall of Lower Garden, which is in a
state of decay.

The Secretary called attention to the opportunity now at hand to place a Budget item for repair of the Park in the 1956 Budget, which is now in the course of preparation. Mr. Wirth said he would look into this matter and see what could be done.

Also, Mr. Wirth said, he proposes to visit Meridian Hill Park between now and the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on June 17th. A letter was sent to Mr. Wirth (Exhibit D). Also a Memorandum drafted by Mr. Peets (Exhibit E).

(b) Temporary War Buildings: The Commission discussed the subject of removal of temporary war buildings from park land in the District of Columbia, particularly those in the Central Area of Washington.

Mr. Wirth said that he was in full accord with the views of the Commission of Fine Arts, as had been explained by Chairman Finley, in particular, the removal of buildings which mar the view of great Memorials in the National Capital, such as the Washington Monument. Mr. Wirth felt that since it appears the Government has begun to place emphasis on peacetime pursuits, these temporary war buildings have served their purpose. He called attention to a plan of the National Capital Planning Commission to decentralize Government offices, under which 50,000 employes could be vacated from these temporary war buildings and relocated in the metropolitan area of the National Capital.

Chairman Finley urged that something be done soon to remove two temporary war buildings near the Treasury Department, at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. It has been found that one of these buildings is used for about a half-dozen non-descript offices and for storage purposes. The building has a sign in large letters, "U. S. Information Office," whereas

The last report of the committee to the Government was in 1900. It was a report on the progress of the work of the committee since its formation in 1895. It was a report on the progress of the work of the committee since its formation in 1895.

Mr. Smith said, in answer to a question, that the committee had been working on the subject of the committee since its formation in 1895. He said that the committee had been working on the subject of the committee since its formation in 1895.

(b) Summary of the work of the committee. The committee has been working on the subject of the committee since its formation in 1895. It has been working on the subject of the committee since its formation in 1895.

Mr. Smith said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee. He said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee. He said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee.

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Mr. Smith said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee. He said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee. He said that he was in full accord with the views of the committee.

that office has been relocated at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest.

Chairman Finley also called attention to the large parking lot opposite the Department of Commerce on Fourteenth Street, and urged that it be removed as soon as possible.

Mr. Wirth said he is in accord with that. Also he said he has been having a difficult time in withstanding pressure by business men to build underground garages under several parks. Fortunately, he said, the Secretary of the Interior is similarly opposed to any such thing.

(c) Nevius Tract: Mr. Wirth discussed with the Commission the question of a general scheme of development for the Nevius Tract. He said that strong effort was made in recent years to have the land again revert to Arlington County for business development, particularly an apartment. But the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts have been opposed to this and that has kept the land in ownership of the Government. It was a real aid, he said, to have the United States Marine Memorial located on this site. But that requires only a few acres, so that some other projects must be considered.

The proposed Peace Memorial project is a step in that direction. The Congress has taken action on a Bill to create a Commission to provide for such a Memorial, and so long as that is being planned the commercial interests will not get control.

Also, the location of the Carillon Bells given by the Government of the Netherlands will require some ground to provide a proper setting. The Bells were accepted at a Ceremony held on May 5, 1954, by the Government. The gift is also to include a Tower to house the Bells; there are 49 of

that office has been relocated at 1811 West and Young streets.

Continued.

Chairman Bailey also called attention to the large portion of space

and the Department of Commerce on Lombard Street, and urged that it be

removed as soon as possible.

Mr. Smith said he is in accord with that. Also he said he had been

having a difficult time in without making progress by business and the public

understandings suggest under several points. Fortunately, he said, the

Secretary of the Interior is definitely opposed to any such thing.

(c) Private Notes: Mr. Smith discussed with the Commission the ques-

tion of a general scheme of development for the entire area. He said

that strong efforts were in recent years to have the land under review

to Arlington County for business development, particularly an apartment.

But the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service,

and the Commission of Fine Arts have been opposed to this and have

kept the land in ownership of the Government. It was a real and, he said,

to have the United States Marine Hospital located on this site. But that

requires only a few acres, so that some other projects must be considered.

The proposed Peace Memorial project is a step in that direction. The

Congress has taken action on a Bill to create a Commission to consider the

such a Memorial, and he felt that it being almost five years since the

costs will not get control.

Next, the location of the Memorial. He said that the Government of

the Netherlands will require some ground to provide a proper setting. The

Bill was accepted as a temporary bill on May 1, 1954, by the Government.

The Bill is also to include a Tower to house the Bell; there are 40 or

them, of different sizes. The largest weighs seven tons and is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. Mr. Wirth said he agreed with the Memorandum (drafted by Mr. Peets), a copy of which he received from Mr. Finley, pointing out that the Nevius Tract is not to be considered as a part of the Mall, but rather as a background of trees formed by the wooded area on the Arlington ridge.

Other park matters are to receive consideration at the June meeting of the Commission.

5. ARCHITECT FOR HAMM, LUXEMBOURG: Under date of April 19, 1954, the following letter was received from Mr. John F. Harbeson, Consulting Architect of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

"Dear Mr. Finley:

"We have formally asked the consideration of your Commission of Francis Keally as architect for the Memorial at Hamm in Luxembourg, on behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Colonel Shaw will send to you a brochure of photographs of Keally's work.

"This is for the memorial originally entrusted to Ralph Walker as architect. The Battle Monuments Commission last December 17 having asked Mr. Walker to suggest changes in his design to meet criticisms which the Commission has made, Mr. Walker on January 14 asked that he and his firm be released from further responsibilities. Mr. Walker has been compensated in full for work performed.

"Francis Keally was born in 1890, received the Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1916. He taught architectural design at the University of Minnesota, Columbia University and New York University.

"He designed the National Pioneer Monument at Harrodsburg, Kentucky (with Ulric Ellerhusen, sculptor), won in competition the Oregon State Capitol building, in association with Trowbridge and Livingston, the Brooklyn Public Library (with Alfred Morton Githens) and the Concord, N. H. Public Library, the Communications Building at the New York World's Fair. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

"I shall be glad to furnish any further information you may wish.

Sincerely,
Sgd. John Harbeson"

JH/b
cc: General North

them, of different sizes. The largest being about 12 feet high. Mr. Little said he agreed with the Commission (dated 10.1.1944) a copy of which he received from Mr. Finlay, dated 10.1.1944. The fact is not to be considered as a part of the bill, but rather as a ground of trees formed by the wooded area on the Washington ridge. Other park matters are to receive consideration at the time meeting of the Commission.

5. ARCHITECT FOR THE MONUMENT: Under date of 10.1.1944, the following letter was received from Mr. John F. Harbeson, Consulting Architect of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

"Dear Mr. Finlay:

"We have formerly asked the consideration of your Commission of Francis Kelly as architect for the Memorial at Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Colonel Shaw will send to you a brochure of photographs of Kelly's work.

"This is for the memorial originally intended to help Mifflin as architect. The Battle Monuments Commission had decided in 1917 having saved Mr. Kelly to suggest changes in his design to meet criticism which the Commission had made. Mr. Kelly on January 10, 1918, asked that he and his firm be retained from further responsibility. Mr. Kelly had been commended in 1917 for his work.

"Francis Kelly was born in 1870, received his Bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1900. He taught architectural design at the University of Minnesota, Columbia University and New York University.

"He designed the National Farmers' Loan and Trust Building (1911) and the Farmers' Loan and Trust Building (1912) in New York City. He was in partnership with the Oregon State Capitol Building in association with the architect Livingston, the Brown University Library (with Alfred Carter, 1913) and the General S. W. Public Library, the Town Hall Building at the New York World's Fair. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

"I shall be glad to furnish any further information you may wish.

Sincerely,
John F. Harbeson

10/1

The Commission considered the matter, and on motion of Dr. Hudnut, seconded by Mr. Neild, the Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Keally as architect for this project (Exhibit F).

6. SCULPTOR FOR AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AT MANILA, P. I.: Under date of May 3, 1954, the following letter was received from Mr. John F. Harbeson, Consulting Architect of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

"Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

"Mr. Gardner Dailey, Architect of the Manila Memorial for the American Battle Monuments Commission, has as his sculptor Boris Lovit-Lorski.

"He hopes to be able, if the budget is sufficient, to have a mosaic decoration over the altar in the Chapel, the background tones of this mosaic to carry around the other walls of the Chapel.

"In order that this decoration have the same feeling as the sculpture on the exterior of the Chapel he would like to have Mr. Lovit-Lorski design it. We have seen mural decoration by this artist of great competence and therefore ask your approval of Mr. Lovit-Lorski as artist for this work.

"The war maps will be designed by another artist. Mr. Dailey is not yet ready to submit the name of an artist for this work, Battle Monuments Historical Division not yet having made a program of the amount of representation to be made at Manila.

Very sincerely,
Sgd. John Harbeson"

JH/b

Mr. de Weldon said, "I think he is a very competent sculptor and original in his design. He is very good in stone carving and especially in very hard stones, jade and granite."

After some further discussion, on motion of Mr. Neild, seconded by Dr. Hudnut, the Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Lovit-Lorski for this project (Exhibit G).

The Commission considered the matter, and on motion of Mr. Hadden,

seconded by Mr. Hadden, the Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Hadden

as architect for this project (Exhibit 5).

6. REPORT FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT

On May 3, 1954, the following letter was received from Mr. Hadden:

Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dear Mr. Hadden:

Mr. Gardner Bailey, architect of the Lincoln Memorial for the
American Battle Monuments Commission, has to his credit the
Lynch-Johnson.

"He hopes to be able, in the budget to submit, to have a
monumental decoration over the altar in the Chapel, the decoration
of this would be very fine and the other side of the
Chapel.

"In order that this decoration have the same feeling as the
sculpture on the exterior of the Chapel he would like to have
Mr. Lynch-Johnson design it. We have seen some small decorations in
this kind of plan and therefore we have approved
of Mr. Lynch-Johnson as artist for this work.

"The war maps will be designed by another artist. It is
not yet ready to submit the name of an artist for this work.
Battle Monuments Commission has not yet received a
plan of the amount of representation to be made on the wall.

Very sincerely,
L. J. Hadden

LJH

Mr. Hadden said, "I think he is a very competent and well-

trained in his design. He is very good in stone carving and especially in the

hard stone, jade and marble."

After some further discussion, on motion of Mr. Hadden, seconded by

Mr. Hadden, the Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Lynch-Johnson

as architect (Exhibit 6).

7. TWO UNITED STATES WAR MEMORIALS: Under date of April 21, 1954, the following letter was received from Brigadier General Thomas North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission:

"Dear Mr. Finley:

"Public Law 871 of the 80th Congress requires that this Commission, or the Department of the Army, inscribe on the walls of a chapel or other appropriate memorial, the names of former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were lost or missing in action. The Act further provides that the names shall be inscribed upon that chapel or memorial which is appropriate in view of the circumstances under which the deceased died in the service of his Country.

"Our present records indicate that there were some 76,000 men and women who lost their lives in World War II and whose bodies were not recovered and identified for burial. The Commission proposes to inscribe their names at appropriate overseas memorials, with the exception of about 4,000 who were lost in the waters off the east coast of North and South America, and about 312 who were lost off the west coast. This Commission feels that it would be inappropriate to record the former at our nearest memorial (Cambridge, England) or the latter at any memorial in the Pacific. It would seem logical, rather, that a special memorial be erected on the east coast (New York City) and on the west coast (San Francisco) for these purposes.

"The American Battle Monuments Commission takes the liberty, therefore, of requesting that you be kind enough to propose the names of architects upon whom it could appropriately call to design these two memorials. You will recall, I am sure, that upon our request your Commission made similar recommendation for architects for the design of the World War II memorials and cemeteries which are already under construction.

"Thanking you for your co-operation,

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Sgd.

Thomas North,

Brigadier General, USA

Secretary."

The Commission considered the subject very carefully. A letter received from Professor Belluschi, suggesting names of persons that he considered competent for the work, was read.

The Commission decided that it would not be well to recommend architects specifically for this project, since it might be construed as expressing favoritism. The Commission decided to adhere to the policy, heretofore adopted by the Commission, to be embodied in a letter to General North, "that the policy of the Commission is not to recommend the names of architects in the first instance, but that we will be glad to have him submit the names of architects, and the Commission of Fine Arts would thereupon advise him of their competence." It was suggested to General North that he should consult the American Institute of Architects in this matter (Exhibit H).

8. ADVERTISING SIGNS FOR NEW OFFICE BUILDING, 13TH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NORTHWEST: The Commission were in conference with Mr. Edwin Weihe, architect of this building, concerning advertising signs proposed for the building.

The Commission had received an application from the Columbia Neon Sign Company, proposing signs for the building. These were considered to be unsatisfactory and were disapproved.

Mr. Weihe said he was glad to be consulted in the matter. He said, further, "I am not too well prepared with exhibits to get any actual action on anything today other than an opinion as to whether this type of design pattern would appear to be acceptable so that I could submit it in a final form later. The reason I am doing it this way is that we have tenants who have been pushing us to complete the job. I would like to have an idea ahead of time, if I can, as to just about what design pattern would or would not be acceptable. In preparation for that, we have unfortunately, not too great, not too legible, an exhibit here. The new building under construction

The Commission decided that it would not be well to recommend that

tests specifically for this project, since it might be recommended

representing low-level. The Commission decided to adhere to the policy

heretofore stated by the Commission, to be embodied in a letter to the

Board, "that the policy of the Commission is not to recommend the name of

architects in the first instance, but that we will be glad to have

submit the names of architects, and the Commission of this and would advise

upon advice him of their competence." It was suggested by the Board

that he should consult the American Institute of Architects in this matter

(Exhibit H).

4. ADVERTISING SIGNS FOR THE NEW EXHIBIT BUILDING, 13TH STREET AND

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WASHINGTON: The Commission were in conference with

Mr. Edwin Weiss, architect of this building, concerning advertising signs

proposed for the building.

The Commission had received an application from the building owner

company, proposing signs for the building. These were considered to be

satisfactory and were approved.

Mr. Weiss said he was glad to be consulted in this matter. He said,

"I am not too well prepared with exhibits to get any actual opinion

on anything today other than an opinion as to whether this type of design

pattern would appear to be acceptable or that I would submit it to the

Board later. The reason I am doing this way is that we have been

have been pushing it to complete the job. I would like to have the

speed of time, if I can, as to just about what design pattern would be

not be acceptable. In preparation for that, we have unfortunately not had

great, not too large, an exhibit here. The new building under construction

and the sketches have to do with the possibility of putting signs in a panel within the nominal show window area. We contemplate either one of two things--a plastic background with a silhouetted letter or an opaque background with a plastic letter illuminated from behind."

Mr. Peets said, "The thing that Mr. Belluschi was especially interested in was in getting the sign flush with the surface of the building rather than having the projection which was apparently indicated in this drawing. He didn't like this drawing at all on account of this channel projection. He said that the necessary electric construction can be from the inside of the building by drilling through at points where the wires have to come through, that this could be avoided."

Mr. Weihe said that he wanted to see a uniformity of design and sign area. "I am afraid to say that I can have uniformity of lettering and color. That may be a hardship. Of course, I bow to whatever the Commission requests, but at the time we proposed it, we would keep at least a similarity in this band or area in which the signs go. I hope to leave the tenant some individuality in this matter and possibly in the color. This is not a final submission. I only want to be able to advise the two tenants as to the limitations and to advise them as to their sign."

Dr. Hudnut said, "The continuity of the boundaries is the important thing. I think the building would be more interesting if the lettering were varied, so long as the projection is the same and the continuity of the frame."

Thereupon, there was some discussion about the Regulation of the Commission of Fine Arts, under the Shipstead-Luce Act, limiting the size of signs to 25 square feet. Dr. Hudnut felt, since the Regulations allow "exceptions," an exception should be made in this instance. It was agreed that there should be a uniform sign area.

and the signposts have to do with the possibility of having a sign in a place within the normal view window area. The committee either one of the things--a plastic background with a silhouetted letter or an opaque sign--ground with a plastic letter illuminated from behind."

Mr. Hoot said, "The thing that Mr. Belmont was especially interested in was in getting the sign flush with the surface of the building rather than having the projection which was apparently indicated in this drawing. He didn't like this drawing at all on account of this channel projection. He said that the necessary electric connection can be from the inside of the building by drilling through at points where the wires have to come through, that this could be avoided."

Mr. Hoot said that he wanted to see a uniformity of design and sign area. "I am afraid to say that I can have uniformity of lettering and color. That may be a hardship. Of course, I bow to whatever the Commission requires, but at the time we proposed it, we would like to have a signifying in this band or area in which the signs go. I hope to leave the design some individuality in this matter and possibly in the color. This is not a final suggestion. I only want to be able to define the two separate areas to the Commission and to advise them as to their sign."

Dr. Hoot said, "The possibility of the boundary is of importance. I think the building could be more interesting if the lettering was varied, as long as the projection is the same and the consistency of the frame. Therefore, there was some discussion about the regulation of the building along at this area, under the Shipstead-Luce Act, limiting the area of signs to 25 square feet. Dr. Hoot felt, since the regulation allows 'extension', an extension should be made in this instance. It was agreed that there should be a uniform sign area."

Mr. Weihe said, "Of course it was my intention only to ask a little guidance at this point, because I have to hold back against the merchandizing impulses of the tenants. I have the good fortune to use this Commission as a kind of an ally to hold them down in a way, but I would like to be able to say that this is probably acceptable and if we do this we are more apt to get favorable and happy solution than if we try to force something special through." To this Dr. Hudnut replied, "I agree thoroughly." The Commission concurred in a motion by Dr. Hudnut that, "This Commission would approve a sign in each bay if the total area were limited to 13 square feet for each sign."

The Commission decided also that the "Sign Company" should confer with Mr. Weihe, with a view to agreeing on a good design for signs for the building, to be considered by the Commission at the June meeting.

9. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS: The Commission considered the following Shipstead-Luce Act submissions, and took action as indicated:

<u>Submission No. 1620:</u>	401 Thirteenth Street, N. W., Revised design considered with Mr. Edwin Weihe, architect of the new building at this location. Design disapproved, and a new design is to be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission.
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<u>Submission No. 1653:</u>	5350 - 27th Street, N. W., new residence, Design submitted May 3, 1954. Approved May 6, 1954.
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The National Automobile Dealers Association submitted, informally, a revised design for their proposed building at 1126 - Sixteenth Street, N. W. The design was inspected by Mr. Neild, and on his recommendation the Commission approved it, Mr. James C. Wilkes, Attorney for the owners, being advised accordingly (Exhibit I).

10. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: The Secretary presented and read the following Memorandum on the subject:

May 6, 1954

"MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS:

"I talked with Colonel Coulter, of the First Division Memorial Association today, regarding the First Division Infantry Memorial of World War II, as it is to be related to the First Division Memorial of World War I.

"This project was an active one before the Commission of Fine Arts some years back, but on account of the temporary war building in front of the First Division Memorial, it was held in abeyance.

"The temporary war building has now been removed. Colonel Coulter told me that the Association will keep the Commission of Fine Arts informed of further plans for the World War II Memorial.

"It is proposed to have a ceremony at the First Division Memorial in August of this year, when the American Legion meets in Washington, D. C.,

"I was assured that the Commission of Fine Arts will be kept fully informed of developments and that nothing would be done to carry out a design for the World War II Memorial without first consulting the Commission of Fine Arts."

The Commission took note of the information given. Also, the Commission expressed appreciation of the fact that the temporary war building has been removed.

11. INSPECTION OF CARILLON BELLS: The Commission inspected the Carillon Bells, the gift of the Netherlands Government, that had been placed at a temporary location on the Polo Field in Potomac Park, and which had been accepted by the Government at a ceremony held on May 5, 1954.

There are 49 of these bells of different sizes, the largest of them being 7½ feet high and weighs 7 tons.

While the Commission understood that the Bell Tower is being designed in Holland and is to be presented to the United States, the Commission felt that the project might be simplified by leaving the bells on a steel frame,

10. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: The Secretary, Treasurer and staff of the

following information on the subject:

1. 1914

"MEMORIAL FOR THE COMMISSION OF THE WORLD:

"I talked with Colonel Conner, of the First Division Memorial Association today, regarding the First Division Memorial. He stated that it is to be related to the First Division Memorial of World War I.

"This project was an active one before the Commission of the First Division Memorial, but on account of the temporary war building in front of the First Division Memorial, it was held in abeyance.

"The temporary war building has now been removed. Colonel Conner said that the Association will keep the Commission of the First Division Memorial of the World War I Memorial.

"It is proposed to have a ceremony at the First Division Memorial in August of this year, when the American Legion meets in Washington, D. C.

"It was agreed that the Commission of the First Division Memorial will be interested in the project and that nothing would be done to carry out a design for the World War I Memorial without their consent. The Commission of the World War I Memorial.

The Board also took note of the information given. The Commission

expressed appreciation of the fact that the temporary war building has been

removed.

11. DISTRIBUTION OF CASH: The Commission requested the

Board, the gift of the Netherlands Government, that had been placed at a

temporary location on the First Field in Japan, and which had been

accounted by the Government as a ceremony held in May 1914.

There are 12 of these bells of different sizes, the largest of them

being 7 1/2 feet high and weighs 7 tons.

While the Commission was seated with the Bell Tower in Japan, they

in Holland and as to be presented to the United States, the Commission felt

that the project might be simplified by having the bells on a single tower,

making it possible for the public to see the bells. The question of permanent location is to be given further study by the Commission.

12. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission inspected several objects of Art presented by Mr. Wenley, Director, and were pleased to approve them (Exhibit J).

13. COMPETITION FOR NEW POSTAGE STAMPS: The Commission were in conference with Dr. Fiske Kimball, Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, concerning the proposed competition for new postage stamps. Dr. Kimball said that he has accepted the appointment offered by the Postmaster General as Professional Advisor, and the Commission were much pleased to hear this.

It was agreed that Dr. Kimball should make a tentative draft of the proposed Program of Competition, which could be considered with him at the Next meeting of the Commission in June.

Dr. Kimball was supplied with extracts of previous meetings of the Commission of Fine Arts, pertaining to the subject of new postage stamps, particularly the meetings held at the National Gallery of Art on September 25th, at the Office of Assistant Postmaster General Robertson, on October 22nd, and at the Office of Director Hall, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on November 17, 1953.

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Commission decided to hold the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in Washington on June 17, 1954.

The Commission adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

...in the ... for the ... the ... of ...
... to be given ... of the ...

12. ... OF ...: The ... of ...
... presented by ... and ...
(Exhibit 1).

13. ... OF ...: The ... were in ...
... with ... of the ...
... the proposed ... for ...
... he has accepted the ... of the ...
... and the ... were ...
... that ... would make a ... of the
... of ..., which could be compared with him at the
... of the Commission in June.

Dr. ... was supplied with extracts of ... of the ...
... of the ... pertaining to the subject of ...
... the ... at the ... of the ...
... at the Office of Assistant Postmaster General ...
... and at the Office of Director ... of the Bureau of ...
... in November 1, 1977.

14. ... OF ...: The ... of ...
... the ... of the ...
... 17, 1974.

The Commission ... at ...

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

April 27, 1954

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In accordance with authority granted by the United States Civil Service Commission, you are hereby appointed Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts, GS 12, at \$7,040.00 per annum, effective June 25, 1954.

Sincerely yours,
Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. Linton R. Wilson,
3611 Prospect Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE
1616 K Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

May 4, 1954

The Honorable David Finley, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

I have the honor to call your attention to a very special luncheon meeting on Monday, May 24, 1954, at 12:20 p.m., to observe the retiring after thirty-five years of distinguished service of Dr. H. Paul Caemmerer, as Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts.

On behalf of the several committees of the Board of Trade which are gathering together that day to honor Dr. Caemmerer, I extend a cordial invitation to you to be a guest of honor. A place at the head table will be reserved for you.

An early reply will be appreciated and it is my sincere hope that you will be able to be with us.

We will inform you separately and well in advance of the final arrangements.

Cordially yours,
Sgd.
Patrick Hayes
Chairman
Cultural Development Committee

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 7, 1954

Dear Mr. Hayes:

I have your letter of May 4th, and appreciate your kind invitation to attend the special luncheon meeting of the Washington Board of Trade on Monday, May 24th, in honor of Dr. H. Paul Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts, who is retiring after a service of 35 years.

I am happy to know of this honor which your organization is paying Dr. Caemmerer, and shall be glad to attend the luncheon.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours,
Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. Patrick Hayes, Chairman
Cultural Development Committee
Washington Board of Trade
1616 K Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

def/pav

COPY

OFFICE OF HORACE W. PEASLEE ARCHITECT

1228 Connecticut Ave.,
Washington, D.C.
April 9, 1954

MEMO re: Fine Arts Inspection of
Meridian Hill Park, April 8, 1954

A follow-up on previous inspection of November, 1939, to review recommendations made at that time and action taken, if any: also to consider possibilities for location of Carillon tower.

Mall: Tree plantings needed along walks and at north and as previously recommended: no action taken.

Flanking hedges: Need of underplanting with small hemlock material to replace loss of lower branches. Question as to vertical or sloping trimming. Use of hedge niches for memorial urns. Use of walls-end niches for sculptural and fountain features. Additional hedge plantings needed to complete plan in Italian manner: along promenade, above 16th Street (against fence) and back of great terrace.

Focal point: Mall still lacks terminal feature: not supplied by small statue. Reconsider use of low circular feature as designed connected to terrace, for use as stage or concert platform as originally intended, with adjacent grove for seating.

Joan of Arc relocation: Out of scale and out of place on terrace: question of site in lower garden entrance or north end of mall.

Pavement Sinkages: Present conditions unsightly and disgraceful. Up ended sections against parapet should be broken up, removed and replaced with temporary surfacing if necessary. Sloping approach to cascade overlook should be replaced with double step. Seats along promenade, which have settled for lack of foundations, should be lifted.

Serenity: Statue literally defaced for lack of protective measures recommended 15 years ago. Nose broken. Pyracantha planting at side should be carried around back and front with fence reinforcement (as with lower garden sphere)--set back sufficiently to reveal inscription. Approach paving should be removed.

Dante: The Committee inspected the Statue of Dante, at the east side of the Lower Garden, and felt that its setting should be formalized.

General observation about protection of Park Sculpture---reference to Dupont Circle vandalism. Why not enclose with fence, as in Farragut until all over planting of pyracantha becomes established as in Scott Circle.

4/9/54

Wall and Walk Repairs: In general, concrete work has stood up well. Settlement trouble apparent in east descent from upper terrace, with spalling on corner of pilaster. At junction of each ascent from lower garden and east cascade walk, a section of reinforcing metal, too close to surface, should be cut out and surface restored. Entire park should be gone over to check parts where repairs are needed. One point along 16th Street needs first attention: Original cast cement balustrade and urn panel, should be replaced with scrubbed concrete work. Three balusters broken off: One urn disintegrating and in danger of falling on passersby. Architect should be given opportunity to revise details.

At entrance to lower garden walk, surface spalling: Apparently applied after base had set; crust should be removed, base chipped for bond and resurfaced----possibly with asphalt mix.

Plantings: In addition to items noted above re terrace hedges, etc., special attention should be given cascade enframingent. Scraggly cedars should be removed and replaced with sightlier material. Consider English hollies and Schottel junipers. Flanking hedges, now sloping, should be stepped down in level sections paralleling parapets. Hedge heights should be raised.

Basin side plantings should be filled in: material reconsidered, and mask fountains exposed. Basin fronts and bottoms could be advantageously painted with colorful swimming pool paints.

Park Accessories: Park seats in need of going over for replacement of rotted slats. Concrete seats need drainage outlets kept open. Seats comfortable; drinking fountains decorative, suitable for general park use.

Carillon Site: Very desirable, central location where chimes can serve large area and contribute to park values. Ample room for congregation of people with playing fountains, plantings, overlooks, etc., for their added enjoyment during recitals. General location preferred---east side area about opposite Belmont Street, centering on curve of east park ascent; possibly overlapping walkway. Base of tower might serve as passing-through park entrance.

Horace W. Peaslee

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 12, 1954

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission were very glad to have you meet with us on May 6th, and appreciated the opportunity of discussing with you the condition of the parks in the District of Columbia, particularly Meridian Hill Park, the Nevius Tract, and the question of the removal of temporary war buildings which are now occupying sites in the parks.

Following the meeting with you, the Commission made an inspection of Meridian Hill Park. They noted that some of the paved walks have settled and that a number of benches are in need of repair; also a portion of the walls, especially the balustrade on 16th Street, would seem to be in need of prompt attention because of settlement in recent years. We shall be glad to send you a memorandum on the subject, embodying these suggestions in greater detail.

As regards the Nevius Tract, the Commission would like to have an opportunity of discussing further with you the question of the location of the carillon which the government of the Netherlands has presented to the people of the United States.

As regards the removal of the temporary war buildings, the Commission feel that concerted action should be taken for the removal of certain buildings that affect vistas in the Central Area. In our opinion, one of the first temporary war buildings that should be removed is the one at 17th Street crossing the Mall; also the small temporary buildings at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

We would like to co-operate with you on these matters and, if you care to do so, would be delighted to have you meet with the Commission at our next meeting on Thursday, June 17th.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd. David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad L. Wirth
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

HPC/DEF/pav

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington 25, D. C.

May 12, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Conrad L. Wirth,
Director, National Park Service,

FROM : The Commission of Fine Arts

SUBJECT : MERIDIAN HILL PARK

This is to confirm our conference of May 6, at which the present physical and aesthetic condition of Meridian Hill Park was discussed. It is our hope that in your next budget provision can be made for such work of rehabilitation as proves necessary after a thorough study of the Park's present condition.

Our attention was called to this matter by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, principal designer of the Park, and we suggest that you confer with him. Attached to this memorandum is a copy of one by Mr. Peaslee listing the items which he considers most pressing. Some of these refer to structural conditions, such as settlements and spalling, the seriousness of which cannot be questioned. Others propose changes in the planting; with most of these we agree in general, but we have not studied them in detail. In respect to Mr. Peaslee's item No. 1, we agree as to additional rows of trees and shaded seats across the north end of the mall. We are strongly opposed, however, to planting trees outside the existing lateral walks, thus reducing the width of the mall as an open space.

Item No. 12, referring to a possible carillon site, is not included in the subject matter of the Commission's present recommendation. We plan later to make a general study of the important problem of the location of the Netherland's Carillon.

Let us express our urgent hope that you will take personal interest in the improvement and maintenance of Meridian Hill Park. It is an extraordinarily dramatic site and has been developed into a very beautiful public garden of the formal type. As the trees and specimen plants grow, the park will increase in beauty and impressiveness. But such a park needs constant and carefully planned maintenance and protection.

It is quite probable that another such public garden will never be built in Washington--or anywhere in the country. We owe it to the past and to the future to preserve this uniquely beautiful work of garden art.

Sgd. David E. Finley,
Chairman.

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM
BY HORACE W. PEASLEE, ARCHITECT, REFERRED
TO IN COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS MEMORANDUM
TO MR. WIRTH, DATED MAY 12, 1954

DESIGN OF HORACE W. PEASLEE ARCHITECT
1228 Connecticut Avenue
Washington D. C.

MEMO RE: Fine Arts Inspection of
Meridian Hill Park, April 8, 1954

April 9, 1954

A follow-up on previous inspection of November, 1939, to review recommendations made at that time and action taken, if any; also to consider possibilities for location of Carillon tower.

1. Mall: Tree plantings needed along walks and at north end as previously recommended; no action taken.

2. Mall: Flanking hedges, Need of underplanting with small hemlock material to replace loss of lower branches. Question as to vertical or sloping trimming. Use of hedge niches for memorial urns. Use of walls-end niches for sculptural and fountain features. Additional hedge plantings needed to complete plan in Italian manner: along promenade, above 16th Street (against fence) and back of great terrace.

3. Focal point: Mall still lacks terminal feature: not supplied by small statue. Reconsider use of low circular feature as designed connected to terrace, for use as stage or concert platform as originally intended, with adjacent grove for seating.

4. Joan of Arc relocation: Out of scale and out of place on terrace: question of site in lower garden entrance or north end of mall.

5. Pavement Sinkages: Present conditions unsightly and disgraceful. Up ended sections against parapet should be broken up, removed and replaced with temporary surfacing if necessary. Sloping approach to cascade overlook should be replaced with double step. Seats along promenade, which have settled for lack of foundations, should be lifted.

6. Serenity: Statue literally defaced for lack of protective measures recommended 15 years ago. Nose broken. Pyracantha planting at side should be carried around back and front with fence reinforcement (as with lower garden sphere)—set back sufficiently to reveal inscription. Approach paving should be removed.

7. Dante: The Committee inspected the Statue of Dante, at the east side of the Lower Garden, and felt that its setting should be formalized.

8. General Observation about protection of Park Sculpture---reference to Dupont Circle vandalism. Why not enclose with fence, as in Farragut until all over planting of pyracantha becomes established as in Scott Circle.

9. Wall and Walk Repairs: In general, concrete work has stood up well. Settlement trouble apparent in east descent from upper terrace, with spalling on corner of pilaster. At junction of each ascent from lower garden end east cascade walk, a section of reinforcing metal, too close to surface, should be cut out and surface restored. Entire park should be gone over to check parts where repairs are needed. One point along 16th Street needs first attention: Original cast cement balustrade and urn panel, should be replaced with scrubbed concrete work. Three balusters broken off: One urn disintegrating and in danger of falling on passersby. Architect should be given opportunity to revise details.

At entrance to lower garden walk, surface spalling: Apparently applied after base had set; crust should be removed, base chipped for bond and resurfaced---possibly with asphalt mix.

10. Planting: In addition to items noted above re terrace hedges, etc., special attention should be given cascade enframingent. Scraggly cedars should be removed and replaced with sightlier material. Consider English hollies and Schotti junipers. Flanking hedges, now sloping, should be stepped down in level sections paralleling parapets. Hedge heights should be raised.

Basin side plantings should be filled in: material reconsidered, and mask fountains exposed. Basin fronts and bottoms could be advantageously painted with colorful swimming pool paints.

11. Park Accessories: Park seats in need of going over for replacement of rotted slats. Concrete seats need drainage outlets kept open. Seats comfortable; drinking fountains decorative, suitable for general park use.

12. Carillon Site: Very desirable, central location where chimes can serve large area and contribute to park values. Ample room for comgregation of people with playing fountains, plantings, overlooks, etc., for their added enjoyment during recitals. General location preferred---east side area about opposite Belmont Street, centering on curve of east park ascent; possibly overlapping walkway. Base of tower might serve as passing-through park entrance.

Sgd.
Horace W. Peaslee

C C P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 13, 1954

Dear Mr. Harbeson:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on May 6, 1954, the Commission considered your letter of April 19, recommending concurrence in the appointment of Mr. Francis Keally, architect, of New York City, as architect for the proposed World War II Memorial at Hamm in Luxembourg.

The members of the Commission are familiar with the work of Mr. Keally and approve his appointment as architect for this project.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. John Harbeson,
Harbeson Hough Livingston
& Larson,
1510 Architects Building,
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington D. C.

May 13, 1954

Dear Mr. Harbeson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 6, 1954, considered your letter of May 3, recommending Mr. Boris Lovit-Lorski as artist to design the mosaic decoration for the Chapel for the American Military Memorial at Manila, Philippine Islands.

The Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Lovit-Lorski for this project.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd.
David E. Finley,
Chairman.

Mr. John Harbeson,
Harbeson Hough Livingston
& Larson,
1510 Architects Building,
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 7, 1954

Dear General North:

I have your letter of April 21st, which I brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at our meeting on May 6th.

The members were greatly interested in knowing of the plans of the American Battle Monuments Commission to erect a special memorial at New York and San Francisco, and that on these memorials would be inscribed the names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were lost in the waters off the east coast of North and South America and off the west coast of the United States.

The Commission would like to be helpful in connection with the design and materials to be used for these memorials. We would prefer, however, not to suggest the names of architects and artists to you, although we will be glad to give you our advice as to the competence of architects and artists who may be chosen by you for these memorials. I would suggest that you consult with Mr. Purvis of the American Institute of Architects, who could, I am sure, give you suggestions as to qualified architects on the east and west coasts who could design the proposed memorials.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd. David E. Finley
Chairman

Brig. Gen. Thomas North
United States Army
Secretary, The American Battle
Monuments Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

def/pav

cc-Mr. Caemmerer

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 10, 1954

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

The revised design for the proposed National Automobile Dealers Association Building, to be located at 1126 - Sixteenth Street, Northwest, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 6, 1954. The Commission approved the design.

Of course, you understand that it will be necessary to submit four or five sets of the working drawings to the Building Department of the District of Columbia for permit. Please confer with Mr. B. H. Benson, Superintendent of the Permit Office at the District Building.

For The Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
Sgd. David E. Finley
Chairman.

Mr. James C. Wilkes,
Wilkes, McGarraghy & Artis,
Tower Building,
Washington 5, D. C.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

- 1 Bronze vessel, tsun, Chinese.
- 1 Bronze mirror, Chinese, T'ang dynasty.
- 1 Painting, Chinese, attr. to Chêng Ch'í, Yüan dynasty.
- 1 Painting, Chinese, attr. to Chêng Ch'í, Yüan dynasty.
- 1 Porcelain vase, Chinese, Chia-ching period, blue-and-white,

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

April 26, 1954

~~J. E. Graf, Acting Secretary~~
For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

May 6, 1954

~~David E. Finley, Chairman~~
For the Commission of Fine Arts.

April 26, 1954

Katharine N. Rhoades

